



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,682	09/25/2003	Masami Matsuura	243216US3 DIV	4417
22850	7590	03/03/2006	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			MAYO, TARA L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3671	

DATE MAILED: 03/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/669,682	Applicant(s) MATSUURA ET AL.	
	Examiner Tara L. Mayo	Art Unit 3671	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 11, 12, 14-16 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 11, 12, 14-16 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/854,472.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified copy has been filed in parent Application No. 09/854,472, filed on 15 May 2001.

Specification

2. The prior objection to the Abstract has been overcome by the amended Abstract filed 08 December 2005.

Claim Objections

3. The prior objection to claim 11 has been overcome by the response filed 08 December 2005.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The Examiner withdraws the prior rejection of claim 26 as the rejection was improperly made.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 3671

6. Claims 1 through 4, 11, 12, 14 through 16 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bernier (U.S. Patent No. 4,004,536).

Bernier '536, as seen in Figures 23 and 24, a motion reduction apparatus for a floating body floating on water, said motion reduction apparatus comprising:

with regard to claim 1,

a plum plate (355) configured to be provided on at least on a side of a floating main body (359) and configured to be separated from the floating main body by a specific distance (as seen in Figure 24) and configured to extend beyond a lowermost bottom surface of the floating main body substantially in a vertical orientation;

with regard to claim 2,

wherein the plumb plate is configured to be supported at a specific location of the floating main body by means of a plurality of stay members (365) configured to be arranged on the floating main body in parallel so as to provide flow sections (375) between the stay members for flooding with incoming water;

with regard to claim 3,

wherein the floating main body is orthorhombic-shaped (i.e., the body has three-unequal axes positioned at right angles toward one another), and the plumb plate is configured to be provided on at least a wavefront side section along a longitudinal direction of the floating main body;

with regard to claim 4,

Art Unit: 3671

wherein the plumb plate is constructed so as to be vertically adjustable with respect to the floating main body (via springs 369);

with regard to claim 11,

a water surface plate (355) configured to be provided on a side section of a floating main body (359) having an orthorhombic shape (i.e., the body has three-unequal axes positioned at right angles toward one another) and configured to extend within a plane substantially parallel to a water surface;

with regard to claim 12,

a plate member (355) configured to be provided on a side of a floating main body (359) disposed in such a way that an edge section of the plate member proximal to the floating main body is separated from the floating main body by a specific distance (as seen in Figure 24), wherein an upper edge (372) of the plate member is configured to be oriented at substantially a same level as a lowermost bottom surface of the floating main body;

with regard to claim 14,

wherein the plate member is configured to be supported at a specific location of the floating main body by a plurality of stay members (365) arranged in parallel on the floating main body so as to provide flow sections (375) between the stay members for flooding with incoming water;

with regard to claim 15,

wherein the floating main body is orthorhombic-shaped (i.e., the body has three-unequal axes positioned at right angles toward one another), and the plate member is configured to be

Art Unit: 3671

provided along a longitudinal direction at least on either a left side section or a right side section of the floating main body (as seen in Figure 24);

with regard to claim 16,

wherein the plate member is constructed so as to be vertically adjustable with respect to the floating main body (via springs 369); and

with regard to claim 26,

a floating body (359) and a motion reduction apparatus (355) according to claim 1.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 through 4, 11, 12, 14 through 16 and 26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

Art Unit: 3671

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

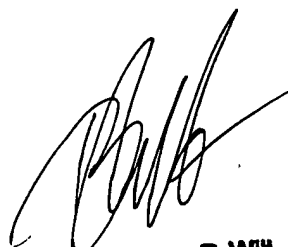
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tara L. Mayo whose telephone number is 571-272-6992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas B. Will can be reached on 571-272-6998. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


TLM

22 February 2006


Thomas B. Will
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600